

SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THIS FORTNIGHT



In this fast-paced world, people seldom have time to read the news every day. Fortnight Human rights update is a new INSECOline series aimed at disseminating a brief overview of National and International Human rights situation once in every two weeks. The series will be covering severe cases of Human rights violations Nationally and Internationally.

Human rights violations noted this fortnight have been enlisted below:

NATIONAL UPDATES

1. INSEC NOTED 231 CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MONTH OF KARTIK

According to the monthly report published by INSEC, total of 231 cases of Human rights violations and abuses has been noted by the organization in the month of Kartik. Among them, 104 of the cases are against females and 127 against males.

2. MORE THAN 4,000 STUDENTS ARE DEPRIVED FROM TEXTBOOKS

More than 4,000 students from several community schools in Chhinnamasta Rural Municipality, Saptari has been deprived from textbooks because of the dispute among the people's representatives regarding budget distribution following Municipality's failure to conduct village council meeting for the fiscal year 2020/21.

Due to Local unit's failure to issue a budget for most headings under the education sector, academic structure of all community schools in the rural municipality has largely been impacted.

3. QUEER COMMUNITY YET NOT RECOGNIZED IN THE MAIN CENSUS

Main questionnaire of the census doesn't provide option to the people from queer community to enlist themselves as the head of the household. According to Sarita KC, Executive Director of Mitini Nepal, form-2 of the census, one with 55 questions (used in the second phase of census) has only provide two options 'Man or woman' in the section of head of the household. Further, category 'others' is also considered to be discriminatory and contrary to the right of self-determination.

4. FATHER ARRESTED FOR THROWING ACID ON HIS CHILDREN

Mohan Baraili, 54, of Solududhkunda Municipality-5 has been arrested by the Police in the accusation of throwing acid on his children Suraj Baraili, 25, and Sujita Baraili, 15. The acid attack has wounded Suraj's neck and Sujita's hand. According to Inspector Hrishiraj Dhakal, the accused had thrown acid on his children in the influence of alcohol and are being treated at Bir Hospital Kathmandu.

5. SCHOOL ASSIGNED AS POLLING STATION BY NEPALI CONGRESS

In the 14th District Convention of the Nepali Congress, Nilkantha Secondary School has been assigned as the pooling station for Dhading's House of Representative's Constituency number 2 and Provincial Constituency despite their commitment of not conducting political activities in the school. The school was closed on November 23rd for the same purpose.

The principal of the school, Dhurba Adhikari, stated that it was a coincidence that the teachers had to prepare the results of first term examination and it was like a school holiday since the students were not coming to the school.

6. AROUND 156 FAMILIES IN BAJURA FACING ACUTE FOOD CRISIS

Around 156 families in the Rudi village of Swamikartik Khapar Rural Municipality, Bajura have been facing acute food crisis for past eight years.

According to a local, Bir Bahadur Karki, the food shortage has arose following dry landslides which destroyed the irrigation channel eight years ago. He further added that the villagers couldn't cultivate seasonal crops and the youths of the village were compelled to go to India to earn and sustain their livelihood.

According to Gopal Adhikari, Chief District Officer, most of the locals of the village were suffering from malnutrition. As per the locals, the state had not paid any attention to this crisis.

7. SUPREME COURT RESUMES ITS DAILY WORK AFTER A MONTH LONG CRISIS

Supreme Court of Nepal has fully resumed its work from 1st December 2021 adopting a lottery system to prepare the cause list. This system has snatched away Chief Justice's prerogative to assign cases to other justices addressing one of the demands of the justices in their agitation on 25th October against the Chief Justice Cholendra SJB Rana.

However, the justices are still not ready to share the bench with the Chief Justice Rana. According to them, Rana can have a single bench but they won't be participating in the division and full benches where CJ is a member.

Sources: INSECOline, The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Online Khabar

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. **16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE BEGINS**

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is an annual International campaign that commences every year on 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and mark its end on 10th November (Human Rights Day).

Theme for this year is 'Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!'

Intimate partner abuse, Femicide, Trafficking, Forced child marriages and Sexual violence in conflict are noted to be five prevalent violence against women around the world.

According to WHO, one in three women have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused by their current or former partner at least once in their life. Similarly, as per the most recent global homicide report by the UNODC, 87,000 women were murdered in 2017.

2. **IRAN CALLED OUT TO REPEAL NEWLY IMPLEMENTED ABORTION LAW**

Nine UN experts on Human rights and violence against women, led by Javaid Raheman, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran have urged Iran to repeal a newly implemented abortion law pronouncing it to be contrary to women's human rights (Specifically right to life and health) under International law. Youthful Population and Protection of the Family law came into effect on 15th November in order to encourage higher childbirth rates as Iran is facing a looming crisis due to its ageing population.

3. **BANGLADESH ELECTS COUNTRY'S FIRST TRANSGENDER MAYOR**

Nazrul Islam Ritu, 45, who uses both male and female pronouns, has been elected as a first transgender mayor of a small town called Trilochanpur in Bangladesh. Following her win, she stated that the victory signifies the people in her town really love her and have embraced her as their own. She has also assured to dedicate her life to public service.

Ritu said that she would try to eradicate corruption and uproot the drug menace in her town of 40,000 people.

4. **SWEDEN ELECTS FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER**

Social Democrat leader, Magdalena Andersson, 54, has been appointed as the first female prime minister of Sweden. A total of 117 members of parliament voted for her, while 174 voted against her and 57 abstained.

A prime ministerial candidate doesn't need majority support in parliament under Sweden's system. They just need to not have a majority against them.

5. **CHINA PROMISES ONE BILLION COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES TO AFRICA**

President of China, Xi Jinping has pledged to donate 600 million doses of vaccine directly and 400 million doses from other sources to Africa. President further stated that country would encourage Chinese companies to invest no less than \$10bn in Africa across the next three years in order to close the vaccination gap.

6. **REPORT REVEALS THAT THE TAIWANESE ARE EXTRADITED TO CHINA**

A new report by Human rights group has revealed that more than 600 Taiwanese arrested overseas have been deported to China in recent years. According to the Safeguard Defenders, this practice was being used as a tool to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty.

Further, the Spain-based group has noted that the Taiwanese sent to China have no roots and no families in there and are at the high risk of persecution and severe human rights abuses.

Taiwan considers itself as an independent country and has insisted the authorities to send the Taiwanese arrested abroad back to the island. However, China still considers Taiwan as a breakaway province that is a part of China.

7. **HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP URGES PAKISTAN TO STOP 'ABHORRENT' ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES**

Amnesty International has urged Pakistani authorities to end the use of enforced disappearance as a tool of state policy considering the impact of such illegal abductions on the families of those who go missing.

Rehab Mahanoor, Amnesty International's acting South Asia research states that 'Enforced disappearance is a cruel practice that has caused indelible pain and long-term effects including health and financial problems to hundreds of families in Pakistan over the past two decades.'

Sources: BBC and Aljazeera

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